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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q67901

Masaaki NAKAMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/019,250

Group Art Unit: 1733

Confirmation No.: 1287

Examiner: Adrienne C. Johnstone

Filed: December 28, 2001

For: RUBBER-REINFORCING FIBER, PRODUCTION THEREOF, AND RUBBER  
ARTICLE AND PNEUMATIC TIRE REINFORCED BY RUBBER-REINFORCING  
FIBER

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement, dated July 20, 2004, Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-12, 22 and 23 for examination. This election is made without traverse.

The Examiner has identified the application as containing claims directed to 3 distinct species. The Examiner has required the Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted. The Examiner believes claims 1 is generic. Applicant has been advised that a response to this requirement shall include an identification of the species that is elected and a listing of all claims readable thereon.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, Applicant elects the substantially non-bundled fiber in the form of a fiber aggregate (specification page 15, lines 3-17) for examination on which claims 1-12, 22 and 23 are readable.

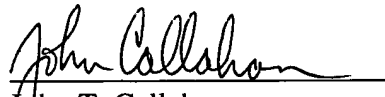
Applicant submits that if any of the elected claims are found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

NAKAMURA et al.  
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Response to Restriction and  
Election of Species Requirement

Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims 13-21 and 24-28.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 20, 2004